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# NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

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## THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE



EMILY LLOYD | NW MISSOURIAN

During the Wellness Center's COVID-19 testing Aug. 21, staff nurse Rachel Peter explains to a drive through patient how to use the test. Peter along with other doctors at the Wellness Center were on their feet to get cars through quickly.

### County sees record-high daily COVID-19 cases

98 | 102

Cases from April 2 to July 24

Cases from Aug. 22-25

SAMANTHA COLLISON  
News Reporter | @sammiecollison

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

A week after hybrid and in-person classes started at Northwest, and nearly two weeks after close to 7,000 students began arriving in Maryville in preparation for the fall semester, new COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County reached a record high Aug. 25.

The county recorded 29 news cases Aug. 25, marking the second time since the pandemic started the county has hit the record threshold and the fourth time in as many days the county has recorded at least 24 new cases of COVID-19. The 29 new cases — the latest data available at time of publication — is the highest single-day case number since the first day of move-in Aug. 13.

In the days after Northwest President John Jasinski sent an email message to students Aug. 21 noting “a concerning increase in students with COVID-19 symptoms” and warning students that the University might “soon be sending our students home,” cases have seen an intense spike in Nodaway County — one largely led by college-aged patients. There have been more cases in the past four days than there were in the first 114 days after the county's first positive test.

But even as active COVID-19 cases in the county have nearly tripled since Northwest's classes started and almost doubled since Jasinski sent the email that served as a warning shot, University officials have been generally unsurprised by the jump in cases.

“We were all obviously aware that the number of cases would increase when the University resumed operation,” said Matt Baker, Northwest's vice president of student affairs, who is a member of Northwest's Crisis Management Team and who served as a University representative in a meeting with city, county health and Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville officials Aug. 25. “We all acknowledged that we were expecting an increase in cases. And none of us are panicked.”

“Nobody's terribly surprised at the increase in cases,” he said.

Baker and the rest of Northwest's Crisis Management Team, which includes Jasinski, meets daily to assess updated metrics and observe the latest on COVID-19 on campus and throughout the county, Baker said. Though most days, metrics — which trickle in from the Nodaway County Health Department a day after positive tests are confirmed and sometimes three to four days after tests are administered — don't provide an up-to-date picture of the virus's hold on the county.

While the University monitors the latest daily data release from the county — which Aug. 25 showed three total COVID-19-related deaths in the county and a record-high rolling 7-day average of 19 cases per day over the last week — Baker said the Crisis Management Team is more focused on how disruptive metrics might be to campus life.

SEE COVID-19 CASES | A4

## Mosaic, University Wellness sees surge of tests

MADLINE MAPES  
News Reporter | @madlinedmapes

The University Wellness Center and Mosaic Life Care - Maryville have been at the forefront of COVID-19 testing in Nodaway County.

County healthcare clinics have been referring patients to Mosaic for testing while students can receive testing at the Wellness Center for free.

Medical Director Gerald Wilmes and Assistant Director Judy Frueh said the Wellness Center is providing testing outside of the building in a tent or in peoples' cars.

Though in a call Aug. 24, a Wellness Center representative said the on-campus clinic was only testing students who had first been contacted by the University.

“We have a variety of tests, therefore it's different criteria,” Frueh said.

Frueh said she recommends if someone is showing symptoms of the coronavirus, to wait and see if they have the symptoms for at least 48 hours before calling the Wellness Center about being tested.

“There is data that suggests the accuracy of a test, if you develop symptoms and it is less than 48 hours, is very, very, very poor,” Wilmes said. “In other words, you will get a false negative and basically get a false sense of security.”

Frueh explained it is important for students to call the Wellness Center and talk to the staff before coming in for testing because it will allow the staff to create a plan of action for that student's case.

Nate Blackford, the president of Mosaic Life Care - Maryville; Barbara Mullock, the infection protection nurse; and Misty Million, the clinic manager, all said Mosaic is asking people to call ahead if they would like to get tested or are displaying symptoms.

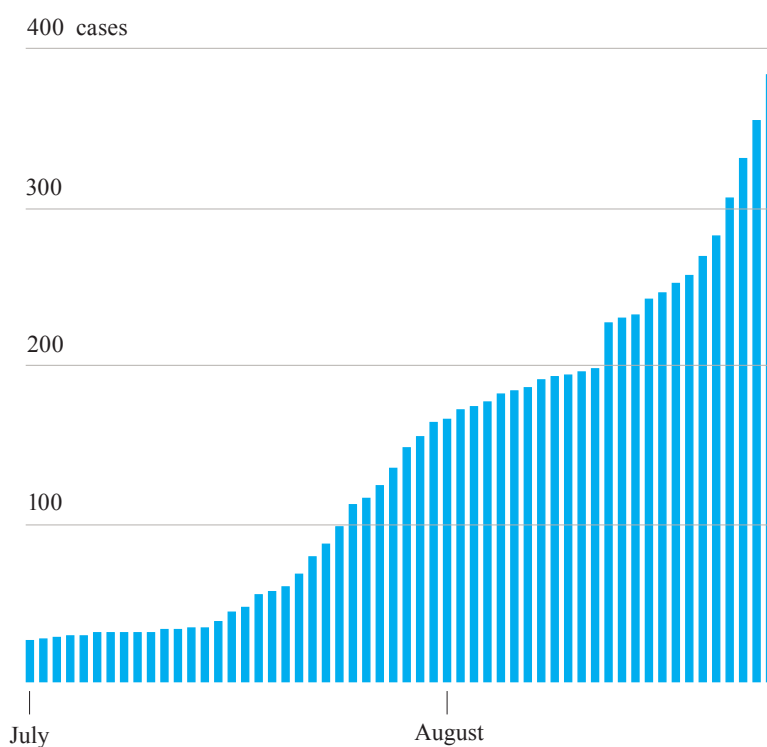
“That helps us — it helps process things more quickly. It helps us get to an answer more quickly. So using that nurse call line and calling ahead is number one,” Blackford said.

The nurse call line is able to help people monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and set up appointments for testing. The nurse call line will act as an information gathering tool for Mosaic so they can decide whether to set up an appointment for testing or to set up a virtual appointment to further discuss their case.

Million explained that testing prices vary from test to test and may be different because of insurance. She said some insurance companies may not cover asymptomatic tests, but will cover symptomatic testing.

Blackford said Mosaic has been doing drive-thru testing at their

### Total positive COVID-19 cases in the county



walk-in clinic, located at Mosaic Speciality Care - East, to help reduce potential exposure to Mosaic staff members.

Regardless of testing, Frueh said if someone displays COVID-19 symptoms or just doesn't feel well, the Wellness Center will urge them

to isolate themselves and quarantine for at least 14 days, unless otherwise instructed to come to the Wellness Center for testing.

Wilmes added if someone is showing symptoms, at that point testing is pointless because that person would have to quarantine any-

way, and a test would simply state the same thing.

Frueh noted if an asymptomatic person would like to be tested, she said the Wellness Center could do this kind of testing, but they would receive a different test than someone who is symptomatic. She said an asymptomatic test would take longer to get back since the person being tested is not displaying symptoms.

Wilmes explained that none of the tests are fully FDA approved because of the urgent need for tests.

These tests were labeled under “emergency use authorization,” which allowed the tests to be pushed through to healthcare facilities and labs to start testing.

The tests at the Wellness Center are free to students, but not faculty and staff. The Wellness Center receives tests for free from the state, but they also purchase tests from a commercial lab called “Quest.”

The Wellness Center entered an agreement with the Nodaway County Commission for what they are calling CARES money.

This reimbursement agreement will help reimburse the Wellness Center for any expenses incurred relating to the coronavirus. This allows them to continue providing free tests for students.

SEE TESTING | A4

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ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School students exit the school after completing their first day of classes for the 2020-2021 school year Aug. 21. The Maryville R-II School District gave students and parents the option to attend classes online, via a program dubbed “Spoofhound Academy,” or in-person, five days a week.



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# Maryville R-II in full swing for in-person classes

ASHLEY LOSSON  
News Reporter I @Ashley\_Losson

Maryville High School started the 2020-21 school year Aug. 25 with in-person classes.

Like Northwest, Maryville High School has guidelines in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19 such as mask mandates and social distancing measures. Strict limitations are also being put into place at school activities and sporting events.

Superintendent of the Maryville School District Becky Albrecht said there are 31 district students in quarantine. Seven of the 31 are in preschool through fifth grade, six are in middle school and 18 are in high school. However, Albrecht said these students were already quarantining before school started.

There has been one positive case among the student body that the school district is aware of and 12 students have been quarantining as of the end of the day on Aug. 25.

“We have a few other students today (Aug. 26) that are being tested or didn’t come to school because they were sympathetic,” Albrecht said.

Albrecht said the school district is wanting to remain transparent with the public about the numbers and is aware that there is a risk, but precautions are being taken.

“We are doing the best that we can,” Albrecht said regarding the precautions the district is taking.

Despite the increase in numbers, the school year at Maryville High School is going to look similar to the new normal that everybody is living in today.

“Students and teachers will wear a mask continually throughout the day,” Thom Alvarez, principal of Maryville High School, said over the phone.

Alvarez said that the school will be following the mask order set by Maryville back in July. This order states that all people over the age of 10 are required to wear a face mask when in public and social distancing is not possible.

Other precautions include socially distanced seating charts in classrooms, prohibiting eating in the cafeteria, having hand sanitizer stations and not allowing outside guests into the building.

“We’re not doing a big, mass, cafeteria-style lunch,” Alvarez said, “Kids will be eating in their (class)room.”

In order to retrieve lunches, students will go to the cafeteria in three different groups in order to limit the number of people in the cafeteria at once. After getting their lunch, students will be asked to re-

turn to their classrooms and not linger in the hallways.

Lingering in the hallways is also not allowed at the beginning of the day when arriving at school. Students are asked to go straight to their first hour class and every class after that as scheduled.

The seating charts are also going to play a role in contact tracing if an outbreak were to happen.

“We always have seating charts in class,” Alvarez said, “but now we’re asking them to turn those seating charts in so that if there ever was need for contact tracing, we’d have that information fairly quickly.”

While some school districts in the surrounding area have canceled fall sports, Maryville is pursuing a way to make it work so that student athletes can have fun and participate.

According to Alvarez, the main difference between sporting events this year and past years is going to be the amount of people that are in the stands.

“We’ve limited fans in attendance to participants’ immediate family,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez explained that this wasn’t a Maryville High School decision, but it was the whole athletic department that put it into place.

Maryville students, much like in St. Joseph, were given the option to enroll in school either in person or online. With this option in place, the vast majority of students have decided to return to school in person as opposed to the latter.

“Less than 10% of our kids chose online,” Alvarez said.

Even though coronavirus has impacted a lot of people in a lot of places, Maryville High School is determined to remain in person for as long as they can in order to give the students a normal learning experience.

“We feel like in-person classes with the teacher, the students and the desks is what’s best,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez said he is happy to have the students back in the building and is excited to not stare at empty hallways again. He said he wants to make the most out of this year and is determined that it can be as fun and exciting as any other school year while still keeping faculty and students safe.

As of now, there is no specific protocol for if positive cases start to rise in the school. If it happens, Nodaway County will give further instructions to the school district.

Andrew Wegley contributed to this report.

someone must say to him: 'It is good that you exist.' --must say it, not with words, but with that act of the entire being

kN<sup>+</sup>own

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# Recruitment moves online for Greek Life

MADLINE MAPES  
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

Greek Life’s recruitment events have all been postponed and moved to virtual platforms and because of the coronavirus.

According to Megan DeShon-Runge, the assistant director of Greek Life, the recruitment process for Greek Life was moved to a virtual, mitigated platform due to a recommendation made by the National Panhellenic Conference, the international governing body of Panhellenic-affiliated sororities all over the country, to help mitigate the coronavirus.

DeShon-Runge, said the National Panhellenic Conference sent out the recommendation Aug. 2020 stating that they recommend, but are not requiring, for recruitments to be moved into a virtual format, no matter the software or length of recruitment.

She said the Interfraternity council’s formal recruitment would normally last about two weeks, but because of the events for their recruitment becoming virtual, they may extend recruitment.

“No one has ever done recruitment through a pandemic before and these are such intense processes with so much planning that go into them, so extending and adjusting as needed is what those councils are going to end up doing to suit their chapter’s needs,” DeShon-Runge said.

DeShon-Runge said that up until Aug. 17, the plan was to hold all recruitments in person and follow mitigation measures from the University and the Nodaway County Health Department.

The Northwest Panhellenic posted on their Instagram Aug. 25, stating that recruitment will be postponed until Sept. 16. IFC posted on their Instagram Aug. 24, stating that their recruitment will be postponed until Sept. 14.

After the recommendation from the National Panhellenic Conference went out, DeShon-Runge said the leaders of Greek Life looked at what other campuses all around the country were doing and decided that hosting recruitment online was the safest path for not only recruitment members but also all students on campus.

Prior to this decision, DeShon-Runge said she created four plans for recruitment that she called the virtual contingency plan. Each plan was designed a different way in regards to hosting people.

The first plan was entirely in-person, the second and third plans were to be hybrid online and in-person recruitment, but now all recruitment events will be completely online.

“I was very meticulously planning all four processes,” DeShon-Runge said.

Now that all of Greek Life is holding recruitment virtually, DeShon-Runge can narrowly focus



GABI BROOKS | FILE

Alpha Sigma Alpha welcomes new members on Bid Day last fall. Northwest Greek Life has postponed all recruitment events and moved them to be virtual following a recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the county.

on what that will look like.

Despite the recruitments being pushed to virtual settings, DeShon-Runge said the registration numbers this year are close to what they were for last year after registration was complete.

Panhellenic registration in fall 2019 had 220 potential new members, and this fall, as of Aug. 25, there are already 190 women registered. IFC had 50 potential new members in fall 2019, they have 72 men registered this fall.

DeShon-Runge said considering the University held limited SOAR days this year and other pre-enrollment events, the numbers for registration are better than last year’s.

She acknowledged there is still time left for registration, and if people stopped registering, it could plateau the registration numbers. But she remains hopeful the numbers will continue to go up.

Nu Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. President Alica Trotter, senior, said she has been part of Nu Gamma since March 2019 and became the presi-

dent in January.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. is a historically Black NPHC sorority. NPHC organizations participate in a recruitment process different from Panhellenic and IFC called Intake.

Trotter said since Nu Gamma is a small chapter that has only about two members who represent the chapter on campus, Intake is not as publicized as its Panhellenic and IFC counterparts.

“It is not as planned as IFC and Panhellenic, so there’s a lot of word-to-mouth communication about when it is,” Trotter said. “You will see flyers around campus, but there is not really a formal recruitment time for our council.”

Any events Nu Gamma may have had planned for Intake were moved to a virtual platform, leaving Trotter concerned about lack of personal interaction.

Trotter said she worked for the University Orientation Services and Admissions, which had proven to her how important face-to-face interaction is upon first meet-

ing someone.

“It will cause a gap of actual face-to-face meaning of sisterhood,” Trotter said.

She said this could make things difficult for people who are more extroverted and enjoy meeting people in person.

“There are going to be a lot of other students who are not going to benefit as much,” Trotter said.

Junior Richard Venerable is the president, keeper of records and seals and keeper of finance for the Iota Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., which is also part of NPHC.

Venerable said he joined the Iota Theta Chapter a little over a year ago and was elected president in fall 2019.

He said he was worried about struggling to connect with potential new members through a virtual platform.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURI NEWS.COM](https://www.missourianews.com)

# University sees enrollment increase, steady retention

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

Well into the resumption of on-campus and hybrid course instruction, Northwest reports the fall 2020 semester began with the second highest retention in University history, recording an uptick in enrollment amid a global pandemic where other colleges are facing declining enrollment, financial burdens and indefinite closures.

Northwest saw a 3% increase in enrollment on the first day of classes, welcoming 7,018 students compared to last year’s 6,841. Retention remains at 76%, the same rate as the previous academic year. The highest recorded retention for Northwest was 78% in 2018, a year in which enrollment increased by 8.2% for the University.

This academic year marks the

third consecutive that Northwest has seen an increased headcount while maintaining a comparatively high retention rate among its state competitors. All numbers from the first University report are preliminary until Northwest’s official census takes place Sept. 16.

Northwest President John Jasinski attributes the recurring successful rate of retention to University leadership teams and brand ambassadors for promoting the institution’s goals and vision.

“Northwest is tuned in to the needs of it’s employer partners and region, and we are focused on graduating students who are ready to launch their careers when they complete their degrees,” Jasinski said, according to a University press release.

Northwest’s enrollment total came with a 29% increase in first-

time graduate students, a 26% increase in overall graduate enrollment and a 15% increase in online enrollment. The 2020-21 freshman class is 1,248 strong with 44% identifying as first-generation college students.

Nationally, it is still too soon to determine COVID-19’s complete effects on college student enrollment and retention since not all institutions are releasing data at the same time.

However, a recent study found that international student enrollment is down on the national level. The number of international students in the U.S. declined by 2.4% in 2019, according to Inside Higher Ed.

Northwest, though, continues to bring in international students at a 6% enrollment rate. Of the 6,841 students enrolled at Northwest in the 2019-20 academic year, ap-

proximately 411 were international.

Amid the overall enrollment increase, University officials remain hopeful for long-term in-person course instruction for the fall 2020 semester as Northwest students and staff begin to speak out on the relevance of mitigation efforts at off-campus gatherings.

“I could not be more pleased with our leaders and their willingness to stand up and take a position of mitigation off campus,” Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker said. “We all know that mitigation measures are a political topic now, and I think that makes things very uncomfortable for a lot of people. But I’m super impressed with students who not only wear a mask but stand up and say, ‘You should wear a mask too.’”

Baker, who has worked in higher education for close to 30 years,

said the student response warmed his heart.

“I wouldn’t work in Student Affairs and I wouldn’t work on a college campus if I didn’t deeply believe in the power and the passion of undergraduate students,” Baker said.

According to the retention and enrollment rates press release, the University’s graduation rate falls in the 89th percentile of its national peer group, and 97% of bachelor’s degree earners and 99% of masters degree earners secure employment or continue education within six months of graduation.

Admissions staff is gathering additional data and will release more institutional research numbers regarding Northwest enrollment and retention in September.

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## CRIME LOG

for the week of Aug. 27

### Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

**Aug. 24**  
There is an open investigation for stealing.

**Aug. 22**  
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation on College Avenue.

**Aug. 21**  
There is an open investigation for stealing.

**Aug. 20**  
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Franken Hall.

### Maryville Department of Public Safety

**Aug. 23**  
A summons was issued to **Caitlin R. Silvas**, 32, for driving while intoxicated, speeding and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 700 block of East Fourth Street.  
A summons was issued to **Carlton T. Johnston**, 29, of Loraine, Texas, for being wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

**Aug. 22**  
A summons was issued to **Treston L. Brown**, 22, of Pickering, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated, driving while suspended and an equipment violation on the 500 block of North Main Street.  
A summons was issued to **Mariah L. Cook**, 20, of Atlantic, Iowa, for driving while intoxicated and an equipment violation on the 100 block of South Dewey Street.  
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 1100 block of South Main Street.

**Aug. 21**  
Two summons were issued to **Larry L. Laun**, 72, of Gravois

Mills, Missouri, for city code violations on the 400 block of West Second Street and the 500 block of East Third Street.  
A summons was issued to **Samuel R. Walker**, 19, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, open container, possession of a fake I.D., excessive acceleration and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

**Aug. 20**  
There is an ongoing investigation for lost or stolen property on the 600 block of South Main Street.

**Aug. 19**  
There is an ongoing investigation for a lost or stolen license plate on the 700 block of North Depot Street.  
A bicycle was recovered on the 100 block of Lawn Avenue.

**Aug. 18**  
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 300 block of North Walnut Street.

**Aug. 16**  
A summons was issued to **Mark A. Wiggins**, 29, of Wagcross, Georgia, for disorderly conduct on the 300 block of North Market Street.

**Aug. 15**  
A summons was issued to **Hector M. Madrid Paz**, 22, of Bethany, Missouri, for no valid driver's license and failure to yield on the 400 block of North Main Street.  
A summons was issued to **Karson G. Bennett**, 20, for minor in possession on the 600 block of North Walnut Street.

**Aug. 14**  
A summons was issued to **William Z. Daugherty**, 20, for minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. on the 400 block of North Walnut Street.  
A summons was issued to **Benjamin F.D. Sharp**, 19, of Faucett, Missouri, for minor in possession on the 700 block of North Walnut Street.  
A summons was issued to **Raechel L. Scudder**, 19, of Davis City, Iowa, for minor in possession on the 200 block of West Third Street.

## COVID-19 CASES

CONTINUED FROM A1

At least 58 of the 165 active cases are Northwest students or employees, though Baker said a figure he's more concerned with is the number of students and staff quarantined, and more particularly, how broadly the impact of those quarantines is felt. Since April 2, Northwest students and employees have made up at least 147 of the total 384 cases. As of Aug. 20, there were "several hundred" students in quarantine, Baker said, though he said he didn't have a more up-to-date or specific figure.

But Baker said if an outbreak took place within Campus Dining's staff or within the walls of the John C. Redden Jr. Power Plant — facilities that are vital to Northwest's continued operation — "that's gonna be a gamechanger."

That, Baker said, is at least part of the reason Northwest officials have continued to decline to declare a public threshold for cases or quarantines that might force the University to shift to remote classes.

"That's why everybody wants the metric: 'What's the number? What's the stop — you know, where do you hit the buzzer and say, 'We're gonna do something different,'" Baker said in a phone call Aug. 26. "I've never been in a crisis where it's that clean."

In the Aug. 24 phone call between leaders and officials from the University, the Nodaway County Health Department, the city and Mosaic, Baker said the group dis-



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN  
**Northwest President John Jasinski attends the last Board of Regents meeting before the fall semester earlier this month.**

cussed more extreme mitigation often requested on social media, including closing bars and placing caps on social gatherings, but none of those measures will be put in place for the time being. Still, Baker said, "everything is on the table." He urged students, in particular, to adhere to the mask ordinance and social distancing guidelines put in place.

"We can do all the tests in the world," Baker said. "But if people aren't staying socially distant, washing their hands and wearing face coverings, it doesn't matter if everybody's tested everyday, it'll still continue to spread."

As cases continue to climb both on and off Northwest's campus, Baker said less than 10% of the quarantine and isolation rooms the University has set aside in North

Complex are filled, as of Aug. 25. Zero Northwest cases have been hospitalized, he said. Active cases among the Northwest community are showing signs of leveling off. And as the number of students resigned to quarantine continues to mount, Baker said his level of concern is "still doing pretty well."

Despite Jasinski's warning that Northwest would "soon" send students home if they didn't begin "adhering to basic mitigation efforts" and despite the flood of COVID-19 cases that followed the president's email, Baker said there are no plans to change course.

"Do I think it's possible? Yes," Baker said. "Do I think we're imminently there? I don't have that sense right now."

## TESTING

CONTINUED FROM A1

Tom Patterson, administrator of Nodaway County Health Department, said testing in the county is geared toward symptomatic people and it does not matter if they are a student or not.

"If you are symptomatic ... and you see your provider, I have not heard of anyone not able to get test-

ed," Patterson said.

Patterson noted that people who are asymptomatic and would still like to get tested may have a harder time finding testing. If asymptomatic people are looking to get tested, they may have to "shop around" to find someone who will provide them with a test.

Patterson also said that insurance is most likely not covering that kind of testing, which will make it harder for some people to afford as-

ymptomatic testing.

Patterson said these kinds of tests are limited in what they can do for an asymptomatic person.

"It's a snapshot of that day," Patterson said.

Like other local health officials, Patterson noted asymptomatic testing can help discover a few more cases, but that is about all it can really do unless someone who is symptomatic came in for testing.

# Performing arts play on amid a pandemic

ABBEY HUGO  
Copy Editor | @abbey\_hugo

The vibrant pink walls of the Mary Lynn Auditorium seem just a little less lively this semester. Every other row of the 1,000-seat theater is clothed in black cloth, as if mourning the loss of the crowds it used to hold. As mitigation efforts drastically limit audiences, the Northwest Fine and Performing Arts Department must adapt to this new view and the myriad of new social-distancing practices.

Despite the unorthodox conditions, students and faculty are committed to making the best of the semester, Northwest Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair Kathryn Strickland said.

"We're all working hard to help our students and ourselves to shift our frame of mind, where we try to think less about what something is not and more about what it can and where we would be without it completely, because that is the only other option," Strickland said. "Make the best of the opportunity to sing together and play together. Yes, we miss the audience, of course, desperately, but in this day and age, there's a whole lot to be gained from what we can do."

In the spring 2020 semester, after weeks of preparation and expectation, all shows were suddenly halted. Choral director and vocal music professor Brian Lanier said it was a heartbreaking reality.

"All of our choral performances were cancelled in the spring. It was very disappointing for everyone: students, conductors, audiences, families," Lanier said. "We were really making terrific progress toward the performances, and to have that taken away was very difficult."

Faculty and staff met almost weekly over the summer to discuss mitigation efforts for the fall. They consulted research specific to the arts, met with officials from Northwest and other institutions and considered all the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

While all academic departments must adjust to the circumstances of a pandemic, there are some challenges specific to fine and performing arts. Strickland outlined the primary concerns. For one, art often



EMILY LLOYD | NW MISSOURIAN  
**A Northwest trumbonist plays through his mask like his fellow band members during marching band practice on August 24. Although the tempatures are falling into the high nineties throughout the first full week of classes, the marching band practices outside regardless.**

uses shared spaces, tools and equipment. Secondly, the arts are typically intended for an audience, and audiences are currently pretty "complicated," Strickland said. Lastly, singing, playing an instrument and enunciating in a theater production, all involve a lot of exhaling, something deemed particularly hazardous as the coronavirus spreads through respiratory droplets.

For starters, the department addressed the standard spacing, supplies and sanitation issues. All classes needed to social distance. Many groups and classes are divided into two separate rooms to be used simultaneously or one after the other.

Fortunately, there's not a lot of competition for auditoriums right now with so few large gatherings. The Charles Johnson Theater is an asset, and the department began offering classes in the Ron Houston Center for Performing Arts Center as well. Large classes like Theater Appreciation were divided and moved into the Mary Lynn Audi-

torium, and even the PAC's lofted mezzanine is now equipped with desks and chairs.

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system was updated to increase the frequency of air turnover, as air is more quickly saturated when exhaling more intensely, such as when singing. Choir practices have been shortened to 30 minutes to ensure there's no oversaturation and to allow proper ventilation between groups. Air purifiers were installed in any room where singing or playing is done.

Northwest purchased more individual supply kits, so artists need not share. A generous use of Bearcat Thunder was implemented, except in areas where absolutely impossible. At 75% alcohol, Bearcat Thunder is highly flammable, so the Fire Arts Building, where pottery kilns and welding classes are located, found safe alternatives.

Next was the issue of masks, which pose a challenge when activities revolve around the use of the mouth. All choir singers now have what are informally called "duck

masks." The masks resemble bills and protrude a couple inches out from the face, to allow for more jaw movement. The band uses masks with small slits in the center, where instruments can be inserted.

The theater department uses standard masks during all rehearsals, which theater professor Joe Kreizinger said is teaching them to display reactions and emotions in new ways. Clear-fronted masks are being considered for major performances. However, all scenes in the first play where actors may have been within 6 feet of one another were rewritten, so masks may not be necessary.

For the most part, there will be no live audiences at musical performances. Exceptions can be made for performances taking place outside, so potential outdoor concerts, pep rallies and festivals are in the planning stages. Theater will only allow a 10-person, invite-only audience. All performances will be livestreamed.

After months without performing alongside their classmates, se-

nior music major and choral assistant Nicolas Zittritsch said students are simply ecstatic to be back, with or without an audience.

"The very first day we sang, everybody was just so relieved to be able to get together," Zittritsch said. "We might not be right next to each other, but we're all in the same room singing, and it brings a lot of joy, I think, to us and the directors."

Even with limited opportunities to see live productions, community members were grateful for the return of the arts students as well.

"We've had numerous ... conversations with people who have said, 'I heard the band. I heard the drumline from my house, and it's never seemed more important than it does right now,'" Strickland said. "We had a woman who stopped one of our tuba players and said, 'This is the first time I've heard live music since March, and it was just so wonderful.' So I think I encourage people to tune in, because it'll do their hearts some good."



# THE PARTY GOES ON

Northwest students continue crowding bars as COVID-19 cases spike in Nodaway County

ABIGAIL STARR  
News Reporter I @abbeystarr5

On Aug. 15, Northwest students arrived at Powerhouse Bar and Dance Club, looking to reclaim their college lifestyle. Their masks varied, some wearing homemade coverings while others pulled shirts up around their mouths. Many were willing to risk contracting COVID-19, pointing out the high survival rate for young adults. Some said they’d already tested positive for the coronavirus at home.

Powerhouse is perhaps the most popular spot in town for Bearcats. Owner Aaron Jones won’t admit it, but the students will. Jones closed his doors for four months, longer than most Maryville bars. He used this dual perspective on COVID-19 as a business owner and as the husband of a medical worker to open quickly and safely. As of Aug. 26, the United States has more than 5.6 million cases with 176,201 deaths.

“I understand both sides on COVID, but the ordinance is hard,” Jones said. He shrugged and leaned against the wall of the club. “If someone says they have a breathing issue, I can’t ask what it is because if I do I’m violating HIPAA.”

As Jones spoke, a group of five or six college students walked in the front door. One man gave a quick nod as he walked by.

“You just get back from the lake?” Jones asked.

“Yeah, moved back in tonight,” the man replied. Jones smiled as the group stepped inside the cramped entry.

“Everyone wears a mask, but they just came back from Lake of the Ozarks, which has been crowded all summer,” Jones said as he rubbed his head.

Missouri is ranked 25th in the number of deaths with 76,636 confirmed cases.

Less than a mile away at Tittle Town Bar & Grill, a handwritten sign hangs in the window reading, “Corona free zone. No corona allowed.” It replaced the first sign hung less than a month ago by Tittle Town owner Tim Jackson, one that brought regional media attention to Maryville as the city council weighed whether to pass a mask ordinance last month. “No masks allowed,” the original sign read.

Royce and Misty Clement own Shooters, previously named Molly’s. The bar brought in a crowd of students most Saturday nights. Crowds are smaller following the recent ordinance and increased cases.

“They’ll have however many cases they want to have,” Royce Clement said through a white Yosemite Sam mustache. Neither him nor his wife wore a mask. As Royce Clement spoke, Misty Clement repeatedly looked at the empty dance floor and back at the door to Shooter’s, expecting to see the Friday night crowd pour in as the work day was ending.

“We need those college kids in here. But if they come in here and get sick, I don’t know what will happen,” she said. “I don’t want the schools to close, but they probably will.”

On campus, students are also worried about being sent home a second time. Students see wearing a mask as worth it to receive the on-campus experience. Northwest administrators are planning for students to remain on campus until Thanksgiving break.

“If we get sent home, I better get my money back,” freshman Kobe Clayborne said. The other nine boys spilled over a small booth in the J.W. Jones Student Union nodded in agreement. Northwest has already announced students will be charged normal tuition rates despite more than 50% of classes taking place in online or hybrid settings. Clayborne and a few of his friends were supposed to play football for Northwest this fall and are disappointed to see their season suspended.

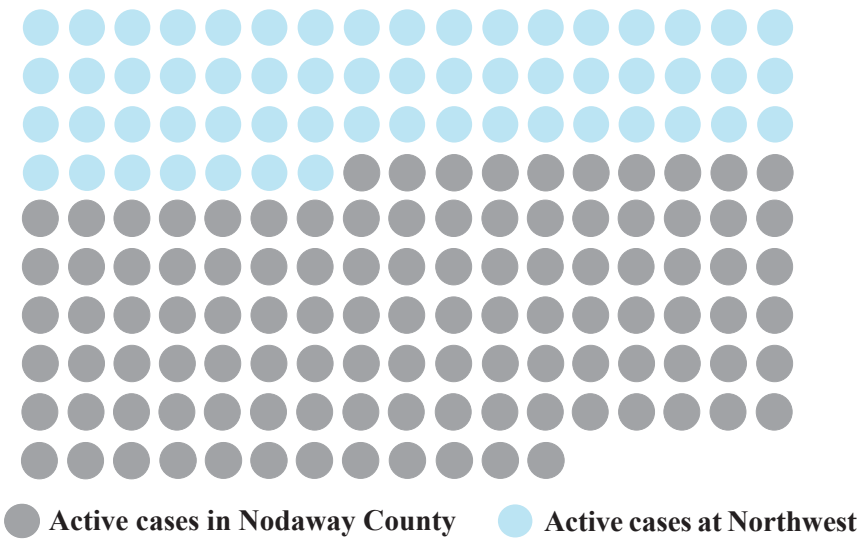
“We can’t even practice. I hope we can do that sometime this year,



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Residents in a house on Main Street fly a sheet that reads, “IN QUARANTINE UNTIL 9/13. SEND BOOZE.” There are more than 50 active cases of COVID-19 involving Northwest students and staff, leaving an unknown number of students quarantined for 14 to 21 days.

## COVID-19 AT NORTHWEST



62.2%

Ages 10-29 account for 59.7% of all positive COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County.

MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

but if people don’t start following the rules, it’ll never happen,” Clayborne said.

He and some of the other players said they’d attended off-campus parties. At least three off campus gatherings occurred on North Mulberry Street Aug. 15, and 78 attendees were later tested for COVID-19 at Northwest’s Wellness Center after being exposed to the virus. Cars filled the street as young adults funneled in and out of houses, but less than a week later, many of them were quarantined as Northwest President John Jasinski sent an email warning students about the rising number of cases on campus and in the county.

“I mean they put hand sanitizer on me, but no one was wearing a mask,” Clayborne said, reflecting on the Aug. 15 parties that left scores of students quarantined by Aug. 21, just three days after Northwest started classes. “Everyone was touching the drinks and sitting close together, so it wasn’t distant.”

Students looking to get involved in organizations on and off campus will have to adapt to new rules with peers.

Kayla Holmes is a Northwest junior and the social media manager at Sigma Kappa. The chapter had meetings throughout the summer to discuss the fall semester.

“No one really knows what the plan is. Recruitment is still happening but with a lot of changes,” Holmes said. Recruitment has

moved online this year with the hopes of lessening crowds.

“The social aspect of the sorority should change to be safer as well,” Holmes said.

Holmes is also a member of the Bearcat Steppers dance team.

“I want to be able to have fun, but also I want to protect my teammates,” Holmes said. She agrees that all events should take place on campus, in hopes more attendees will take the necessary precautions.

“The unknown makes me nervous. You can’t control anyone but yourself, so you do your best and hope for the best,” Holmes said.

Residence halls have protocols in place to protect students living on campus.

Junior Kailee Allen moved into her room on Aug. 13. Allen noticed students not wearing masks while visiting rooms besides their own. Northwest advises roommates to establish their own mitigation rules for their room.

“With dorms at full capacity, it feels like there’s no stopping it,” Allen said.

Sophomore Rachel Danforth worries for students living with people they don’t know.

“You don’t know how seriously other people will take it, and that’s scary,” Danforth said.

Northwest banned guests from residence halls July 7, closing guest rooms for the fall.

According to the CDC, for every 100,000 people in Nodaway

county, there are 1,335 cases. With the addition of 7,000 students to the area, that means cases could increase to 388 within the first few weeks of class. As of Aug 26, Nodaway County had 165 active cases, at least 58 of them at Northwest. Tom Patterson, administrator of Nodaway County Health Department, knew that cases would increase.

“All the college towns are planning for this; we’re not unique,” Patterson said. “The University has been working really hard for months planning for this; we’re better prepared for this than we were four months ago.”

Patterson is impressed with Northwest’s procedures for the semester with classes adapting to new environments.

“Students are stressed. Everyone is stressed, but taking it head on is better in the long run,” he said. “If classes are going hybrid, I think that’s going to help regulate distancing.”

Patterson is aware some students are not fully complying with guidelines, but he feels optimistic that students will do what it takes to stay on campus.

“Overall I’m impressed with how responsive this generation has been,” he said. “These are extraordinary times that require extraordinary measures.”

Patterson encourages students to continue to distance, wear masks, wash their hands and stay home if they’re sick. As for those who don’t

comply, Patterson tries to focus on the positive.

“We work on the 90% who do follow guidelines. Everyone else isn’t gonna like it, but if we get most people to do well with this and respect each other, we’ll do well,” Patterson said.

But two days into classes at Northwest, things had largely gone awry, and cases have continued to spike. Patterson expressed admiration of student-aged residents and optimism for how the fall semester might go before classes started, but now just days later, Northwest’s grip on the virus started to slip before students had completed a full week of classes.

In an email to students, Northwest President Jasinski encouraged students to follow guidelines and attend University-regulated events following the first weekend on campus.

“The time is now, Bearcats. As we head into another weekend, we need you to take seriously not only your health and safety but that of those around you,” Jasinski said in the message.

The email ended with a list of on-campus activities and a warning to Bearcats.

“Without adhering to these basic mitigation measures, Northwest will soon be sending our students home as the University of North Carolina, Michigan State University and Notre Dame did this week. Don’t let that happen to us,” Jasinski said.







THE STROLLER:  
Your Bearcat wants you to look in the mirror

Nothing quite says “Welcome back” like 14 days stuck in a one-bedroom apartment, does it? I’m 49 hours into a 14-day quarantine and am truly sick of staring at these beige walls and suspended ceilings — almost as sick as I am with all you guys not wearing your masks in public!

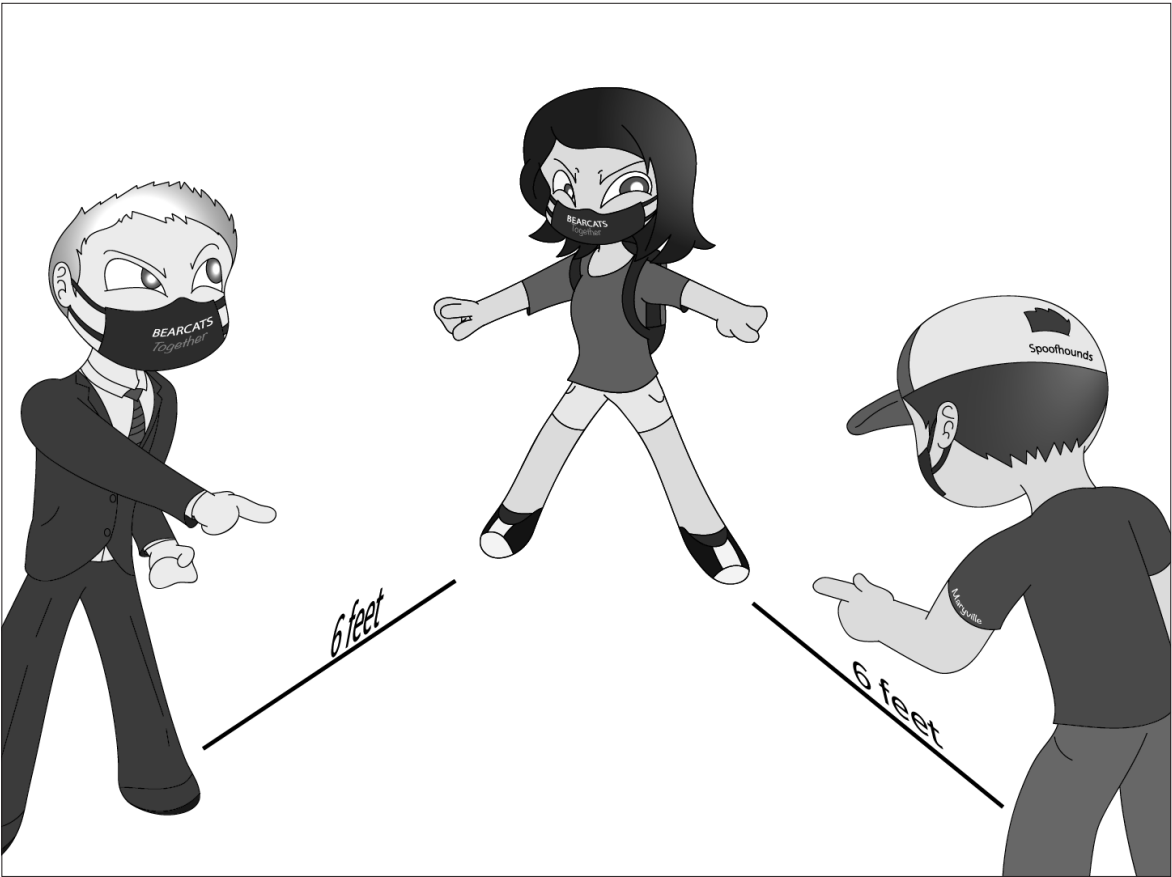
I mean, I know I went out almost every weekend I was in town this summer to Burny’s and Powerhouse and, really, wherever the drinks were the cheapest that weekend. And I know I never wore a mask when I did — except when they made me put one on to get in the door. But, seriously, guys, can we have an honest conversation about whose fault this is?

And I’m not talking about the University. How could Northwest have known that bringing 7,000 students back to the, like, 9th largest college town in the state was going to go poorly? Administrators did everything they could, truly. They invented their own disinfectant spray. What more could they have done? Read the room? Require students to test negative? Let’s be realistic.

No, I’m talking about the real villains here, like the guy I passed in the Hy-Vee entryway on my way to my car last Saturday who hadn’t put his mask on yet. The health department didn’t specify where I got COVID-19, but they did say it was on Saturday, and where else would it have been? No chance it was at one of the five darters I went to — where everyone was drunk or getting there, standing about a foot-and-a-half apart — those were outdoors. And it couldn’t have been at Burny’s, either. I spent almost all my time there on the Upper Deck.

The problem here is all you guys who won’t self reflect and take some personal responsibility. I’m not quite sure who “you guys” is. It might be literally everyone else. But I know it’s not me.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:  
All accountable for recent surge in COVID-19 cases

And so it begins, the blame game. Coronavirus cases have surged since Northwest resumed in-person classes — shocking — and as a result, students, faculty, administration and community members are beginning to point fingers. Everyone in their own way is accountable for what is happening. No one side is at fault but all must take responsibility for their actions that have led to this extremely predictable outcome.

Perhaps the epicenter of the ongoing battle of blame was the email Northwest President John Jasinski sent out Aug. 21. Jasinski didn’t even attempt to veil the accusation that the spike in COVID-19 cases was the fault of off-campus students.

“Just three days into classes, we are seeing a concerning increase in students with COVID-19 symptoms after attending off-campus gatherings last week without social distancing or face coverings,” Jasinski stated in the email.

Later in the email, there was also a somewhat smug reference to re-reading the “Being a Bearcat” expectations which completed the “this is all your fault” arc of his message.

Jasinski is right in the fact that off-campus gatherings have resulted in the spread of the virus. He conveniently neglected to acknowledge that he, along with other members of the administration, approved bringing 7,000 people together during a pandemic.

Jasinski also listed numerous on-campus events that students are welcome to attend as though all of those are being rigorously monitored. They aren’t. Plenty of students and staff can be seen at on-campus events two feet apart with a mask pulled below their nose.

Classrooms on campus are not always socially distant, as there are numerous classes where there are no empty seats. Students and staff alike are confused about everything from how long they are supposed to quarantine if they are exposed to where they are supposed to go to be tested.

Students aren’t off the hook either. The common excuse being that 18-to-22-year-olds can’t be expected not to go out. You mean literal adults can’t follow the simple guidelines that have been in place for months now. It’s wearing a mask, not going out and staying home when you feel symptoms. It’s not that hard to follow.

Northwest is already seeing a large population of its students in quarantine. With each passing day, it seems the Zoom queue fills for class as the in-room count lowers.

However, it seems that many who are quarantined believe that being in quarantine just means you can’t go to class. It doesn’t. It means you shouldn’t be around people at all. That means no excursions to Applebee’s for half-price appetizers and no trips out to Mazingo with friends for a swim. Northwest students are adults, and whether they like it or not, they are accountable for ignoring guidelines and pushing the University to the brink of online-only classes.

The general public of Maryville also needs to be held accountable. The same issues of not following proper guidelines can be extended to the community as a whole. It wasn’t but more than a month ago that a prominent Maryville bar and grill decided to fly in the face of science and logic and ban masks.

Trips to Walmart, Hy-Vee and other Maryville hotspots are littered with “townies” that have the mask resting under their chin as they blatantly ignore the 6-feet threshold. And driving around the ‘Ville on the weekends, not all the large gatherings passed will be composed of Bearcats.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that getting through it will be a group effort. Each individual from the President’s Office to the first-semester freshmen is responsible for doing their part. We’re all adults, so let’s take accountability for our actions and start acting like it.

YOUR VIEW:  
Who should be held accountable for the continued rise in COVID-19 cases in the Northwest community?

DESTINY KELLY  
Freshman  
Bio-Psychology



“Probably the students because, I mean, we’re all responsible for the actions that we take in school and outside of school, so we know where we’re going and who we’re hanging out with and stuff, and you kind of got to be careful about that.”

STEVEN OWINGS  
Sophomore  
Vocal Music Ed



“The majority of people should be people not following mitigation measures. Those are the people I think deserve majority of the blame because if you look at the statistics and the people that I’m hearing about being quarantined, those are the people who started this spread, but then I also worry about people who maybe also get blamed for it when it wasn’t necessarily their fault just because they were a close contact. So I guess to answer your question, people not following mitigation measures, throwing huge off-campus parties and the people just thinking that it’s over and it’s a joke.”

HANNAH JENNINGS  
Freshman  
Graphic Design



“The people who aren’t taking the COVID-19 seriously and aren’t wearing their masks or sanitizing their hands, at least constantly trying to keep their germs to themselves.”

CORRECTION:

Last week, in our Aug. 20 edition of the “Your View,” The Northwest Missourian mistakenly attributed a quote from senior Erin Bowers to junior Antonio Morgan and mistakenly attributed a quote from Morgan to Bowers. The Missourian regrets the error.

Being black in Maryville means never feeling safe

CORBIN SMITH  
Columnist  
@curly\_corbs



There’s an issue with my skin. It evokes fear in some and disgust in others. I don’t have blades coming out of my skin, and it doesn’t release a pungent odor. However, as I stroll across my second home for the semester, I attract strange glances. It must be the way my chocolate brown skin glistens during the day; now that’s intimidating.

I’m not saying this because I want to discuss how I love my sunkissed skin or my spring-loaded locks, but to discuss the difference between attending school in Maryville, Missouri, and attending school in Kansas City, Missouri.

Don’t get me wrong, I am blessed to be at Northwest exploring my journalistic interests, but the town sometimes makes me uneasy.

In my first few days back, I was

walking from the track upon finishing a workout and noticed a car passing by. Naturally I repositioned my glance from my phone’s screen to catch a lady’s eyes fixated on me from the passenger seat. Being the friendly individual I consider myself to be, I smiled and politely nodded, expecting her to smile back and return her gaze to the road. I was disappointed. She, instead, continued staring at me with a look of, from what I could gather, disdain or slight irritation. She even went as far to slightly turn to continue glaring at me as the car rolled on.

For comparison, my existence in my hometown is rather unnoticeable. In North Kansas City, where I attended high school, I feel as comfortable as a black individual in America can feel.

That’s not to say I haven’t had my fair share of racist encounters in the Kansas City area, because I have. I am, however, saying that, in Maryville, sometimes I feel as though my actions are being mon-

itored more closely than in Kansas City. It’s as if there’s a force waiting for me to do something “out of the ordinary” to justify doling out punishment for a melanated king.

Now that I’m returning to Northwest to further my education in journalism, I’ve been reset to my cautionary setting.

I do my best to stay calm and unbothered by my surroundings, but I shouldn’t have to act like I’m a perfect human being in order to stay out of trouble. Every store I go in, I make sure I’m not speaking too loud, acting too erratic and definitely try my hardest to make sure nobody thinks I’m stealing. Sometimes, I get paranoid that I’m acting too cautious which makes me think I look even more suspicious. All because my skin handles UV rays a little better.

In Kansas City, there are parts that I wouldn’t (and shouldn’t) feel comfortable in, but cities are a lot different. In Maryville, I get scared that I’m going to be pumping gas

and a couple trucks with confederate flags might show up and harass me. I’m not saying that this happens often, but the amount of trucks in the area prompt my nervousness.

There is a reason I have an issue with trucks. In my experience, trucks haven’t always been a symbol of comfort. Trucks don’t, by any means, denote someone’s personality, but I’ve had too many bad experiences with trucks and the people who operate them.

Belton, Missouri, had a period where trucks with confederate flags would follow and run black individuals off the road. Emmett Till was abducted and thrown into the back of a pickup truck. Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down by people in a truck. The other day, my friend was tailed by a truck in Maryville, and as the truck pulled up next to her, the driver was seen aggressively mouthing something to her. Even two jam-packed charter buses worth of black high schoolers brought a gang of trucks

to slowly follow, circle and honk at teenagers walking from a mall.

These examples are only a few cases of what the black community has experienced with racist owners of trucks. I personally experienced the last example. So, I hope people understand when I tense up at the roar of a pickup and the thud of boots on pavement.

I wish I could give each individual in Maryville the benefit of the doubt, but seeing Facebook comments from Maryville residents after the Black Lives Matter protest makes the task difficult. I never know who could be secretly despising me when they’re not behind a screen.

Like I said, there’s an issue with my skin. It could be how I wear it so confidently or the way my white, porcelain smile contrasts my mahogany complexion. Or maybe it’s just a reminder of the generational trauma that my people have endured. You tell me.

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CARDS  
CONTINUED FROM A10

But, Wright said, the five months leading up to the MIAA’s decision to postpone were as difficult as ever.

“So much of my job is providing answers for people on a day-to-day basis,” Wright said. “I come to work every day with a plan — usually that plan gets modified — something pivots and changes, yet I can’t provide any clear answers.”

“We as coaches are so used to controlling our world,” Wright said. “To not have control of that, not being able to tell guys what’s gonna happen, was really hard.”

Most of the frustrations, while the fate of the season was hanging in the balance, came from the lack of clarity and guidance.

The NCAA’s Division II Presidents Council decided Aug. 5 to cancel all championships for fall sports. That Council’s decision came in the wake of the NCAA Board of Governors’s statement that declared each division would be responsible for choosing the status of championships.

“Unfortunately, that lack of leadership piece has been really hard to deal with,” Wright said. “When that happens, everybody gets on it in their own lens, and I don’t think that’s what we need right now. I think what we need is a broader perspective on, ‘Can we do this? Can we not do this? If we’re gonna do this, what’s it look like?’ And nobody seemed to wanna do that.”

Wright, along with the rest of his coaching staff, is now responsible for six classes instead of five. That’s because of the NCAA’s decision to allow players that did not compete this fall to retain their eligibility.

He said that this year’s true freshman class, along with next year’s, will form to create one massive superclass, in terms of eligibility standpoints. It’s not favorable, he said, but it’s what the program is dealing with.

“The repercussions of this isn’t just the senior class, it’s each year,” Wright said. “So, it’s going to impact your recruiting. . . . It’ll go out five years, and I’ve already had to think about it.”

Included in this year’s senior class was graduate-transfer Rakid Hill. Hill

spent four years at Nebraska-Kearney before transferring to Northwest for his final year of eligibility.

Eight days after finding out the season would be on hold, Hill took to Twitter to express his disinterest in his peer’s ability to stop the spread of COVID-19.

“You try working towards something for three, four, five months, and you get to it, and it doesn’t happen,” Hill said. “Then you try gearing down again and ramping back up, trying to gear towards the same thing, and it still doesn’t happen. So, it just kinda feels like a big tease, and nobody wants to work towards something with no result. The result that we wanted was to play football and win games, and we can’t do that this fall.”

Hill was preparing to play his final season after redshirting his freshman year at Kearney and then suffering injuries in three of the four seasons in which he played for the Lopers. His remaining year of eligibility came from exercising his medical-redshirt year.

“Dealing with injuries my whole career and getting stopped by that, now getting stopped by a pandemic, it’s just like, ‘What’s next?’” Hill said. “The good thing about it is everybody, including myself, were prepared for it. So, we’re trying to play the cards the best we can.”

Wright understands that his players wanted to play this fall. He understands that Northwest football fans wanted to pack Bearcat Stadium to see the Bearcats play. He also understands that having a season wouldn’t be within the best interest when his team couldn’t compete for a national championship.

“I had no interest in playing a season where there’s not a championship,” Wright said. “I didn’t think it was fair to our kids, and I didn’t think it was fair to our university to just play for the sake of playing.”

For the foreseeable future, the Bearcats won’t be playing football. They’ll be playing cards. More specifically, they’ll be playing the hand they’ve been dealt.

And when football resumes, whenever that might be, they’ll push all of their chips to the middle of the table in an attempt at bringing title No. 7 to Maryville.



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville football senior Trey Houchin scored one of the Spoofhounds’ two touchdowns when Blair Oaks defeated Maryville 24-13 in Week 1 of the 2019 season. The Spoofhounds haven’t defeated the Falcons since the 2017 season.

HOUNDS  
CONTINUED FROM A10

Despite an impressive group of offensive players coming back, Webb understands he doesn’t have to entirely rely on these six players.

“One thing about us is that we play a lot of players,” Webb said. “It’s not just our starters and then everyone else stands on our sideline. We get our guys in games so they have that experience when they get older.”

Throughout the history of football, people have touted that defense wins championships. If that’s the case, the Spoofhounds should like their odds against opposing offenses with familiar faces returning on defense.

Junior Andrew Spire makes his return at the linebacker position, alongside junior Kyle Stewart. Playing valuable minutes last year, Spire and Stewart are trusted to be able to read offensive schemes to make tackles at the line of scrimmage.

The defensive backfield is laden with senior talent. Brady Farnan, Kade Wilmes and Caleb Kreizinger are expected to be ballhawks and intercept passes that come in their direction.

With the official schedule being released, Maryville will have to be ready to spend many Friday nights away from the comfort of the ’Hound Pound. Out of the nine regular-season games, the Spoofhounds will be on the road for six of them.

“The MEC has a wide range of schematics and players that really prepares you for playoff

runs,” Webb said. “The week-in and week-out challenge that comes with playing in the MEC is something we look forward to every year.”

A foe that hasn’t seen the Spoofhounds since the Class 3 State Tournament back in 2017 has been added to the schedule in Week 7. Maryville will travel to Kansas City, MO to play the Lincoln College Prep Tigers on their signature blue turf field.

Even though Lincoln College Prep is a larger school and larger classification than Maryville, the ’Hounds will come into that game with a 3-0 all-time record against the Tigers. They’ve outscored the Tigers 183-40.

Webb and the team aren’t too worried about the Week 7 matchup right now, as their main focus is on Week 1. Webb is excited to get the season rolling against the Blair Oaks Falcons in Warrensburg, Missouri.

“The Falcons have been dominant and have an excellent football team,” Webb said. “They have a very proud football tradition.”

The last time the Spoofhounds beat Blair Oaks was in 2017 in the Class 3 State Tournament by a score of 49-20. Since then, Maryville has dropped two consecutive games by a total score of 61-49.

Since 2017, Blair Oaks has a compiled record of 27-1, including a Class 2 State Championship. The balance in the offense, defense and special teams has given Maryville a hard time as of late.

“There is no weakness in their team,” Webb said. “Combine that with

really good athletes with physical talents, it shows why they’re a dominant program in the state of Missouri.”

Webb believes his team has the right component, but it comes down to the effort.

“We’ll do what we do. We’ve had really good schemes the past two years; we just haven’t been able to win the game,” Webb said. “The past two years have been very competitive. It’s just a matter of us going down and playing better.”

To avoid a third consecutive loss, the Spoofhounds will first have to settle in and play their style of game. Webb knows his players are excited to play and will face many emotions.

“They have to understand it’s Friday night and the process it takes on offense, defense and special teams,” Webb said. “We just need to play the game.”

Maryville will be looking to capitalize on special teams. In the game against Blair Oaks last year, the ’Hounds recovered two onside kicks to keep them in the game. With the Falcons’ offense putting up 20 unanswered points in the first half last year, special teams will be crucial when it comes to field position.

Although Webb and his players were forced to change their off-season schedule due to COVID-19, the Spoofhounds feel confident with the Week 1 matchup.

“I think we’re very prepared,” Webb said. “The kids will understand what’s going on. We’ve been watching a lot of film and schemes that Blair Oaks does. The kids are excited to play.”

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# Coach relies on watches to keep up with kids

**CORBIN SMITH**  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

The uncertain, riddled voice of Maryville cross country coach Rodney Bade trickled out of the phone’s speakers as he unraveled his view of this upcoming season. As of Aug. 13, MSHSAA hadn’t canceled fall sports and the Spoofhounds still had the chance to compete if they chose.

Instead, on that same day, the MSHSAA Board of Directors met virtually and approved a plan for the option of an alternative fall season that moved fall sports to a time-frame which begins March 20 and concludes May 1.

“I think it’d be better off if we can give this fall a shot,” Bade said. “If you’re a junior or senior and you lost your track season but took time off and things are going well, not running in the fall with the hope of spring, it’s going to hurt. That’s still going to hit because there’s the uncertainty of ‘What happens if we get to spring and it’s still not possible?’”

Bade is also worried about the athletes who have been training hard over the summer in preparation for the fall. He says that athletes will be confused on what type of training they should do if there is no season to train for.

“What kind of training do we do from now until March without races?” Bade said. “That’s kind of how high school kids choke them-

selves up. They do some preseason training so they can get into shape, then they get into the season, we race and train. Without that flow, it can become long and monotonous for some kids.”

As for the athletes that are laxer in terms of training, Bade explained his idea of a running club that will meet three times each week to keep runners from burning out. Bade’s voice resembled eagerness when discussing his returning veterans, three in particular that he worked with over the summer.

Garret Dumke is a senior who was anticipated to have an impressive junior track season, Bade said in a phone interview March 15 before the season was halted due to COVID-19. During his junior cross country season, Dumke finished 27th at the MSHSAA Class 3 Cross Country State Championships. He led the ‘Hounds in the 5,000-meters race with a time of 16 minutes, 39.5 seconds.

Cale Sterling is now a junior who also competed at the MSHSAA Class 3 Cross Country State Championships last year. Sterling finished 82nd with a time of 17:34.7, which placed him as the Spoofhounds’ fourth-best runner in the 5,000-meter race last season.

The third athlete mentioned by Bade was junior Jag Galpin. Galpin was Maryville’s No. 2 runner last season in the 5,000-meter as a sophomore and placed 62nd at the MSHSAA



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
At the beginning of practice, coach Rodney Bade checks runners temperatures as they show up. Bade is the Maryville High School cross country coach and has been holding practices for his students at their convenience.

Class 3 Cross Country State Championships with a time of 17:20.0.

Despite the lack of face-to-face practices, Bade still had a way to monitor his athletes and make sure they would keep training outside of school-organized workouts. Each athlete has a Garmin watch

that tracks vitals and distance traveled, and through a shared account held by Bade, can be observed without meeting.

“Garmin Connect is a wonderful platform for me to keep an eye on things and guide them,” Bade said. “But even then, all I see is numbers.

I hear how the workout went, I see a number, I see a pace or whatever, but it’s so different than actually physically seeing them run and checking in on them every day.”

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
**NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

# Northwest sophomore yearning for future with cross country

**TANNER SMITH**  
Sports Reporter | @t\_smit02

With her track and field season being canceled in the spring, Northwest cross country sophomore Delanie Dykes has spent the time since then reflecting and looking forward to what comes next.

The Gibson City, Illinois, native is a mid-distance runner who was looking forward to her first full season of cross country, as she did not compete much last season. As a freshman, she wasn’t sure what she wanted to do as a runner. After the last few months of time off from school due

to COVID-19, that changed.

“I was able to work on things I may not have if we had a full spring season,” Dykes said. “I have learned a lot about myself as a runner, and I am hoping for a spring season when the time comes.”

Dykes said she has been able to take the setback of not being able to compete and put that towards bettering herself. Yet, getting the news from the MIAA CEO Council Aug. 13 that there will be no season for fall sports was tough.

“I was disappointed when the season got canceled in the spring, and now our season is canceled in the fall,” Dykes said. “Right now is really just a chaotic time for everyone.”

The conflict for cross country is that the postponement of a season nearly guarantees that there won’t be one. The new season would fall during the same time that track and field is regularly scheduled for. With most athletes competing in both, it makes it difficult to manage.

Nonetheless, Dykes is glad she came to Maryville. Competing at this level is something she’s hoped for.

“I really liked the coach, facilities and the girls on my team,” Dykes said. “I also liked the fact that I was able to go DII because it is what I was looking to do out of high school.”

Dykes was able to find her sec-



ond home at Northwest while getting an education and still competing in a sport. There is a balance that is needed between cross country and track and field that she has to take on during her time at Northwest.

“When I train, sometimes I am able to just go out for a run, and other times I can do a hard workout on the track,” Dykes said. “There is a good mix between the two, which is a nice thing.”


As Dykes sets out to start her sophomore year at Northwest, she is looking forward to the opportuni-

ty to be on campus and train for her sport. A lot of universities do not have that luxury due to COVID-19. She will still be able to train with her teammates in a safe way and get ready for whatever season lies ahead in the spring. While there is uncertainty right now for the future of college sports, training never stops.

“I love being close with my team. I am able to mix in and out with all the different runners,” Dykes said. “I look forward to training this fall for whatever happens in the spring.”



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# 3RD TIME'S THE CHARM

*'Hounds aim to snap skid against Falcons*

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

It's been over 40 weeks since the Lathrop Mules came into the 'Hound Pound for the Class 2 District 8 championship.

That night, Nov. 15, 2019, fans saw a nine-game win streak come to an end, a 67-home-game win streak crushed and the last time Maryville took the football field.

The one-point loss left a bitter taste in the mouths of the Spoofhounds. Coaches, players and fans were ready to move on and set their sights on a new beginning.

That new beginning starts Aug. 28. Coach Matt Webb has already wiped out the nightmare that occurred when the Mules came to Maryville, and so have his players. The team is looking strictly ahead to the 2020 season.

"This group is excited to build their own identity and start the season fresh," Webb said. "That's the amazing thing about all sports: everybody gets a fresh start."

While the Spoofhounds will be given a clean slate, there are still high expectations to follow the team this season. Maryville has lost nine games in the past eight years, while winning the Midland Empire Conference seven times in that same span.

This year, Maryville will be without some big-time playmakers due to graduation. The Spoofhounds will be without offensive lineman Jackson Bram, offensive and defensive lineman Tallon Noland, wideout and defensive back Tate Oglesby and middle linebacker Tyler McGary.

However, the Spoofhounds are returning core players on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. The ability to return a large group of veteran players has Webb excited.

"When you follow tradition



Maryville football's senior quarterback Ben Walker is readying for his third year as the starter for the Spoofhounds. Walker will be searching for his first win over Blair Oaks when the teams square off Aug. 28 in Warrensburg, Missouri.

never graduates' and process football, you can't help but feel very confident in our entire team," Webb said. "We got a lot of experience back."

On the offensive line, there is returning senior center Tobin Cordell and junior Blake Castell. Both Cordell and Castell received all-conference honors for their efforts during the 2019 season. The line will be anchored by these two standout players.

Three-year starter Marc Gustafson will be returning at the tight

end position. His 6-foot-8-inch frame makes him a hot target in the passing game. Cordell, Castell and Gustafson will hold down the fort up front, allowing the stars in Maryville's backfield to shine.

Three-year starter Ben Walker will find himself under center. His experience will play in the favor of the Spoofhounds. Walker can throw the ball, run when needed and knows how to get the offense in and out of run checks, Webb said.

Last season, there weren't many situations in which Walker

didn't have an answer. Heading into his final season as a Spoofhound, preceded by a prolonged offseason to train, expect big things from the gunslinger.

In the backfield with Walker, senior running backs Trey Houchin and Connor Weiss look to carry the Spoofhounds back to the district championship game. Both players received the honor of being a captain for this year's team.

SEE HOUNDS | A8



In his three years at the helm of the Northwest football program, coach Rich Wright has led the Bearcats to a total record of 31-8, along with two MIAA Championships. The Bearcats' schedule was modified twice before the MIAA CEO Council announced Aug. 14 that all fall sports were postponed until Jan. 1, 2021, effectively putting the season on hold until at least the start of the new year.

## Football prepares for eventual return in 2021

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Traditionally, a Saturday in the fall at Bearcat Stadium is more than likely occupied by Northwest football. That tradition will be broken after the MIAA CEO Council announced Aug. 14 that all fall sports competition was suspended until Jan. 1, 2021.

So, instead, coach Rich Wright and company are playing cards.

"In life, I don't think you can afford to feel sorry for yourself," Wright said. "So everybody's been dealt a bad hand. If we all went to Vegas tomorrow, and we all got a bad hand, the person that's gonna win the money is the person that can play that hand the best."



“

In life, I don't think you can afford to feel sorry for yourself. So everybody's been dealt a bad hand. If we all went to Vegas tomorrow, and we all got a bad hand, the person that's gonna win the money is the person that can play that hand the best.”

-RICH WRIGHT

"That's really what I've tried to pivot and get everybody to focus on," Wright said. "It's just, how do we play this to set ourselves up to do something special in 2021?"

Wright had the five months prior to the season to ponder and process the possibility of not having football this fall. He said that the hardest part, for him, isn't the absence of the sport, but how hard it's hit his players.

His focus now turns to further helping the players thrive in their academics, the team's retention, making sure players are on track to graduate, recruiting and what the possibility of any competition in the spring might look like.

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